

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany / *Czechoslovakia*

REPORT

SUBJECT *Political and Economic*
Summary

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B. Armed ForcesGDR1. Higher Echelon Organizations

In July/August 1958, the Administration for Coordination, headed by Colonel Saegbrecht, was located on Regattastrasse in Berlin-Gruenau [redacted]

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German Comment. Three months ago, Administration 19 (military intelligence service) had been renamed into Administration for Coordination, simultaneously moving from Behrens-/Schnellerstrasse in Berlin-Mitte to Regattastrasse in Berlin-Gruenau. The transfer [redacted] apparently referred to this administration. Following Brig Gen Linke's retirement, Colonel Saegbrecht had become head of the department about 1 year ago or in late 1957/early 1958.

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2. Recruiting and Replacement Administration

- a. It was learned that the four-week training courses with NVA ground forces started for about 14,000 university and academy students in early August. Participants had reportedly finished their 1st or 2nd study year or were to start their last study year [redacted]

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Comment. [redacted] it can be assumed that the abovementioned number includes all students who completed their first military training course in July and August; they are believed to represent about half of the university and academy students who had declared their readiness to participate in these courses by late May. [redacted]

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- b. It is expected that, starting September, all full-time FDJ functionaries who have not yet participated in NVA training courses will receive training with NVA units. The courses are aiming at a qualification as NCO. Upon probation, graduates from these courses may later become instructors of student training courses.

Comment. A training course for party, state and economic functionaries which had already been announced to last from 1 September to 15 October [redacted]

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[redacted] has in the meantime again been confirmed. The information probably concerns the same training course which will probably be held either at Prora/Ruegen or at Brandenburg/Havel.

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- c. GST instructors and untrained members scheduled to become instructors have allegedly been inducted for reservist training courses with NVA units in several groups since July []

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[] Comment. This measure would not only agree with the planned creation of a strong reserve and improvement of premilitary training within the GST but would also comply with the tasks of GST within the framework of military training of students.

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- d. Reservists trained in Gera are later to be organized into a Reserve Mtz Rifle Regt []

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[] Comment. The fact that retired NCOs and EM are being employed as instructors for reservists serving for the first time, and a first indication of an unchanged composition of such reserve units for subsequent reserve exercises tend to support the correctness of this information. []

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[] Gera is the post of the ca derized Mtz Rifle Regt/4th Mtz Rifle Div which is known as (reservist and replacement) training unit, but, according to available information, is not identical with the abovementioned Reserve Mtz Rifle Regt.

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C. ArmyI. USSRTraining (GDR)

During the period under review, intensive combined arms training continued, increasingly at tag grounds; firing practices of arty units and especially engr training are conducted on a small-scale; transfers of AAA units for training in firing have not been observed for several weeks.

The following was observed:

1. Training activity at or near Tag Grounds:a. Rathenow-Letzlinger Heide Area

- 23 and 25 Aug, transfer in 2 shpmts presumably of army troops/Twentieth Army from Fuerstenwalde in the direction of Cottbus distr;
- 26 Aug, 1 shpmt presumably with elms/1st Mecz Div from Priort to Magdeburg distr;
- 26 and 27 Aug, 2 shpmts of tanks and arty pieces were unloaded at Uchtsprunge;
- 27 Aug, 1 column, including 12 hv and medium mortars, from the direction of Doeberitz in the direction of Buchow-Karpzow;
- 27 Aug, 100-120 vehicles in groups of about 8 vehicles were observed on the Wustermark - Wernitz road moving in western direction;
- 28 Aug, in the afternoon, 2 columns, including RIs and APCs moved from the direction of Hauen in the direction of Doeberitz;
- 25 Aug - 1 Sep, heavy traffic of columns, mostly groups of 7-10 vehicles, including tanks, amphibious vehicles, engineer bridge building equipment, and APCs, in the Rathenow area mainly in east-western direction; allegedly bridge construction near Hohennauen;
- after 25 Aug, begin of maneuver allegedly announced for the Premnitz area;
- 28/29 Aug, 3 shpmts presumably with elms/71st Arty Brig/Twentieth Army from Magdeburg distr to Bernau;
- 28 Aug, entraining in Jaevenitz presumably of elms/71st Arty Brig/Twentieth Army;
- 30/31 Aug, 2 shpmts presumably with elms/1st Mecz Div from Magdeburg distr to Dallgow;
- 30 Aug, tanks entered Loewen Kaserne [] in Doeberitz from the direction of the railroad station;
- after 31 Aug, Adler/Loewen Kaserne in Doeberitz allegedly again occupied to capacity []

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Comment. Information on columns observed in the Doeberitz area on 27 Aug supplements previous reports on movements by road and rail of elms/1st Mecz Div.

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It can now be assumed that mixed units of this division conducted exercises in the Rathenow-Letzlinger Heide (northern part) area, presumably at reinforced regimental level, between 27 and 30 August. It is believed that, in spite of the early shipments to the tng area (22/23 Aug), the 71st Arty Brig/Twentieth Army also participated in the exercise. The shipments from Fuerstenwalde might indicate the participation of additional army troops. The fact that the columns proceeded in a great number of small details tends to indicate that the exercise was held under the assumption of intensive air activity by the enemy.

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2 Sep, movements of columns of mecz and arty elms from Herrenkrug Kaserne (5283) in Magdeburg in the direction of Letzlinger Heide tng grounds and vice versa are connected with training activities of elms/u/i Mitz Rifle Regt and u/i Arty Regt/19th Gds Mecz Div (Tank).

b. Koenigsbrueck Tng Grounds

27, 28, and detrainning and entraining of u/i units, mainly with tanks with maneuver insignia, in Schwepnitz and departure of detrained units to Forst Hoyerswerda may have been connected with the transfer of elms/Tank Regts/11th Gds Tank Div to Koenigsbrueck tng grounds on 25 Aug, and may indicate major exercises of this division.

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c. Ohrdruf Tng Grounds

19, 22, and the fact that 2 shpmts with tanks and APCs went from Georgenthal to Zeitz on 19 Aug; tanks and assault guns were entrained in Jena and left in northern direction on 22 Aug; and 2 shpmts with tanks and SP guns were detrained in Jena on 30 Aug, tend to indicate that additional elms/20th Gds Mecz Div (Tank) have been rotated to Ohrdruf tng grounds.

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d. Lieberose Tng Grounds

22/23 Aug, according to loadings of arty and AA guns, presumably of 8th Gds Mecz Div, in Leisnig, the observation of 2 shpmts, allegedly from Grima, which proceeded in southeastern direction, and the entraining of elms/Mitz Rifle Regt of this division from Leipzig-Schoenau (8241), elms/8th Gds Mecz Div presumably conducted exercises, possibly at Lieberose tng grounds;

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31 Aug/1 Sep, loading of tanks in Lieberose and departure in the direction of Cottbus on 31 Aug and information on shipments between Halle distr and Satz Korn on 1 September, are believed to be connected with an exercise presumably of elms/10th Gds Tank Div at Lieberose tag grounds;

e. Unknown Tag Areas

21 and 22 Aug, the assumed loading of RIs from Gerhart Hauptmannstrasse restricted area on 21 Aug and loading of tanks from Camp Donjuech in Neustrelitz on 22 Aug, can be interpreted as transfer of elms/9th Gds Tank Div to a tag area;

29 Aug, the arrival of troops with JS tanks at Camp Zeithain by road from the direction of Grossenhain and by rail upon unloading in Roederau tend to indicate the return of elms/Hv Tank Regt/9th Tank Div, which presumably practiced at a tag ground;

2. Arty Training

24 Aug, Rathenow: unloading presumably of elms/18th How Arty Regt/6th Arty Div, which had transferred to a tag ground for firing practices on 15 Aug;

29 Aug, return to Dallgow presumably of elms/2nd Arty Brig/Second Gds Mecz Army (Tank) in each one shpmt from Jueterbog and Forst Zinna; the units had transferred to Jueterbog in 2 shpmts for firing practices on 25 Aug;

29/30 Aug, return to Olympisches Dorf [] in Doeberitz of elms/90th RL Regt/Second Gds Mecz Army (Tank), which had left in the direction of Nauzen on 27 Aug;

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3. Engr Training

2 Sep, return of elms/36th Bridge Bldg Regt/GSFG to Seeckt Kaserne [] in Magdeburg, from training activities on the Elbe River []

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[] Comment. Until now, exercises at reinforced regimental level have continued for more than 6 weeks. Since, in previous years, this training period has been considerably shorter, it might be concluded that the Soviets have concentrated on this type of combat training during the current training year. It is possible that the Soviets, by exercises at this level, are testing new arrangements and organizations of troops corresponding to modern warfare conditions. While in previous years major exercises up to army level with subsequent Div and GSFG maneuvers, had already been under way at this time of the year, such exercises can be expected only after approximately mid-September in 1958. This assumption is supported by the following observations:

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Special engr training and arty firing practices may be regarded as largely completed. During the last few weeks, shipments to firing ranges involved only Arty Divs and Brigs, while the divisional Arty participated in Major exercises. The last shipments of AAA units to Wustrow arrived there in late July, so that, after the return of these units to their posts which is expected to take place one of these days, the AAA units could also be available for fall maneuvers. However, no definite conclusions on the further development of the Soviet training program can be drawn since, as has already been observed, the Soviets may any time deviate from previous habits and the known scheme.

II. GDR1. Order of Battle

During the past months, the 1st AAA div of the Air Defense was fully equipped with weapons and other materiel in accordance with the present T/E []

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[] Comment. According to this information, and on the basis of an assumed authorized organization into 3 battalions with each 3 batteries, each of the three regiments would be equipped with 36x100-mm AA guns and 18x57-mm AA guns, in addition to a corresponding number of AA machine guns.

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2. Training

- a. AAA units returned to the 3rd MD from Wustrow firing range in several shipments on 13 Aug, and the 7th AAA Regt returned on 19/20 Aug []

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[] Comment. The arrivals on 13 Aug presumably involved units which had transferred to the tag grounds on 23 July []; they had been followed by additional AAA units from the southern MD including the 7th AAA Regt on the first week of August. []

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- b. After preparatory practices in the post area which started at dawn, the 11st AAA Regt left Wustrow firing range on 11 Aug; the regiment was allegedly to return on 1 September, while major elms/8th AAA Regt had definitely evacuated the firing range on 10 August []. Between 20 and 22 Aug, AAA units of Potsdam garrison and/or the 1st Mtz Rifle Div were again entrained; the elms/1st AAA Regt which had transferred on 14 Aug, apparently returned to their post in late August [].

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[] Comment. [] Staggered transfers of AAA units to the Baltic Sea shore for firing practices in the second half of the summer are normal. As is also the case with other branches of service, the firing records serve to find the best units which are also encouraged by general competition; the same procedures have been observed during winter firing practices.

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- c. Engr Regt Klietz was to participate in a major exercise at the Greifswalder Bodden after pertinent preparation in the area northwest Greifswald from late August until late September [redacted]. On 27 Aug, w/i small columns passed through Grimmen in the direction of Greifswald [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. Training activity presumably of Hq units and/or staff and signal elms in the Stralsund-Anklam-Demmin area between 6 and 8 Aug may have been connected with the above mentioned exercise.

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- d. Between 12 and 16 Aug, units of various branches of service returned to Prora/Ruegen from unknown tng areas and elms/ 23th Itz Rifle Regt returned from Wittstock and Luebtheen tng grounds to Rostock while additional tank units returned to Prora between 22 and 27 Aug. [redacted]

[redacted] Comment.

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[redacted] a 14-day rotation program for the 8th Itz Rifle Div and the 1st Itz Rifle Div respectively. The alternate transfer of entire units and elements to summer camps and/or for exercises and firing practices is presumably due not only to technical but also to security reasons.

- e. On 13/14 and on 27/28 Aug, tank units left Wittstock tng grounds [redacted].

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[redacted] Comment. According to a deserter, elms/23rd Tank Regt were to be stationed in a summer camp at this ground until 25 Aug. [redacted]

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- f. Intensive rotation of units/1st Itz Rifle Div between the post and especially Klietz and Lehnin tng grounds for firing and advanced combat practices of combined arms continued throughout the period from 20 to 30 Aug [redacted].

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[redacted] Comment. The same impression is gained from information from other Div and tng areas, e.g. Grosschoenebeck, Nochten and Zuellsdorf. It can therefore be said that the character of training activities of mtz rifle, tank and arty units has not changed so far.

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III. Poland

Military Technics

According to newspaper photographs, a PT-76/C amphibious tank with a barrel with bore evacuator participated in a parade in Lodz on 22 July 1958.

(Polish Press, ZW Aug/58)

[redacted] Comment. So far, 2 amphibious tanks have been observed with the 8th Engr Bn Crossen/O in March 1958, and 1 with the Tank Officer School in Poznan in June 1958.

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D. Air ForceI. USSR1. Command and Training of Troops

On 1 and 2 September 1958, there was conspicuously little air activity by the Twenty-Fourth Air Army for unknown reason; subsequently air activity increased and was very intensive by the end of the first week in September. No indications for the beginning of or preparations for fall exercises have been observed so far [redacted]

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Between 0900 and about 1300 on 4 September 1958, an exercise took place in the GDR which involved elements of the Werneuchen, Briesen and Finow bomber regiments and elements of almost all fighter regiments of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army. Bombers flying individually and making detours reached Gadow-Rosow training ground; they were attacked by 4-fighter formations on their way [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. An air defense exercise within the framework of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army with the purpose of testing air reconnaissance and fighter control in case a major number of individual airborne targets on changing course appeared.

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2. Logisticsa. Magdeburg-Sued Airfield

Between 20 July and 24 August 1958, Magdeburg-Sued airfield was occupied by 12 gliders, 3 Yak-18s and 1 AN-2 of the Association for Sport and Technique (GST); the aircraft conducted air activity during favorable weather. 3 Yak-18s performed training flights on 2 to 4 days and nights per week. There were about 40 flying students as course participants. The recruitment of flying students for power planes was without much success [redacted]. No parachute training was observed.

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b. Airfield Area Around Schmietkow-Poggendorf

On 15 August 1958, the airfield area still had a solid grass cover and at that time was used as pasture. The surrounding plain corn fields were harvested. There were no indications that the airfield was to be used shortly [redacted]

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c. Presumed Auxiliary Runway on the Berlin-Nuernberg Autobahn

On 28 July 1958, two kilometers of the grass strip of the Weissenfels-Naumburg/Osterfeld autobahn (51° 08' N/ 11° 58' E) had a concrete cover [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. Length and location of the presumed auxiliary runway have not yet been confirmed.

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II. PolandLocation of Troops

Prior to late July 1958, Pruszez (54 15 N / 18 40 E) airfield was occupied by the 25th Polish Fighter Regiment, [] which was subordinate to the 10th Fighter Division at Stolp-Reitz (54 29 N / 17 06 E), the 11th BOL, [], and the 1st Dywizjon Zabezpieczenia, the latter with 30 men. There was intensive day and night air activity, formation flying every day, and firing practice at ground targets once or twice a week. The young pilots who came from the pilot school were assigned to the 3rd Squadron and, after one year's service, were transferred to the 2nd Squadron. After another year, sometimes only after two years, they were transferred to the 1st Squadron. Air activity and instruction were conducted in all detail according to a general plan which came from Warsaw every year []

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[] Comment. The subordination of Pruszez Fighter Regiment to Stolp-Reitz Fighter Division has been confirmed. The second fighter regiment in Pruszez reported recently was probably stationed there for a short period.

III. Czechoslovakia1. Location of Troopsa. Prague-Kbely Airfield

When passing Prague-Kbely (50 07 N / 14 33 E) airfield prior to June 1958, twin-jet aircraft of MiG-17 type were observed in front of a hangar and at the southwestern end of the runway []

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[] Comment. One air transport regiment of the Czech Air Force is carried at Prague-Kbely airfield. The assignment of the MiGs has not yet been determined.

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b. Plzen Airfield

In mid-July 1958, about 12 Il-12s were observed in front of the open hangars. Seven to eight soldiers parachuted from three other Il-12s circling over the airfield. Subsequently, the aircraft landed at the airfield []

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[] Comment. One tactical reconnaissance regiment equipped with Il-10s of the Czech Air Force is assumed to be stationed at Plzen airfield. The transport aircraft probably belong to Prague-Kbely airfield.

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c. Dobruny Airfield

In June 1958, on occasion of the "Tag der Flieger" (Pilot Day), about 70 jet aircraft were observed taking off from Dobruny (49 40 N/13 16 E) airfield. It was learned from a conversation with an air force officer stationed at the airfield that, about late June 1958, new jet aircraft had arrived at the airfield [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. One fighter division headquarters and three fighter regiments are carried at Dobruny airfield.

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2. Logistics

- a. Since 1956, an airfield has been under construction in the area west of Sedlnice (49 40 N/18 05 E) and southeast of Bilovec (49 46 N/18 02 E): it is scheduled to be completed in 1962. The construction site was off limits and guarded by sentries [redacted].

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[redacted] Comment. It remains to be seen whether the project under construction is actually an airfield or another military installation.

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- b. A 300-meter wide and 2-km long meadow which extended from 300 meters northeast of Breznice (49 33 N /13 58 E) railroad station in southwest/northeast direction was converted into an emergency airfield by an air force construction unit equipped with 6 tippers, 3 tractors, 2 levelling caterpillars and 3 bent shovels in May 1958; this airfield had not yet been completed by June 1958 [redacted].

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[redacted] Comment. The construction of this emergency airfield is reported for the first time.

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IV. RumaniaOrder of Battle

In the spring of 1958, air activity at Sibiu-Turnisor (45 47 N / 24 05 E) airfield discontinued completely; the air force unit stationed there transferred to an unknown destination [redacted].

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[redacted] Comment. It is assumed that the Rumanian Ground Attack Regiment from Sibiu-Turnisor is being re-equipped from Il-10s to MiG-15s at another airfield.

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F. Premilitary and Paramilitary OrganizationsGDRMilitia and Police Troops1. German Border Police (DGP)

Heavy border units practiced attacks with armored support

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The 1958 training concentrates on infantry training. While training at squad level terminated in April, training at platoon level started in May; training at company level is scheduled to be held at the end of the training year. It is planned to detach for this purpose entire companies which are to be temporarily replaced at the border by companies activated from Border Bereitschaft reserves

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Comment. This information agrees with other reports and indicates that 1958-combat training is aiming at readiness for employment at company level.

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2. Alert Police (BP)

a. Between 20 and 31 August, elements of the Second Bereitschaft returned to Basdorf from Lanke summer camp: practices held there included night marches up to 60 kilometers, construction of trenches and alerts with subsequent exercises under war-like conditions

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b. The 3rd Battalion/3rd Bereitschaft from Cottbus has been stationed at Lieberose summer camp since early August 1958 and was to participate in joint practices with Soviet units until 20 September 1958

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Comment. Marching and combat practices have reportedly also been held by other BP units stationed at summer camps until September 1958.

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